

# **DRUG ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE**

It has been well documented that illegal drug trafficking and usage is a serious problem facing all North Dakotans. Our drug problem has become front-page news with the explosion of methamphetamine related crimes in the State since the mid 1990s. People addicted to illegal drugs in North Dakota have been responsible for horrific crimes, domestic abuse, armed robberies, home burglaries, child abuse, increased mental health commitments, and many other disturbing crimes and incidents.

From urban areas, to small towns, Indian reservations, and on the farm, we have a drug problem that has proven that the creation of laws and the addition of drug agents alone are not enough. In at least one significant way North Dakota needs to do more to address its drug problem. Many states have made great strides to develop comprehensive and advanced drug control policies that seek to integrate all drug control programs and enforcement measures. North Dakota must do more in this regard.

In North Dakota, patrolmen, rural deputies, and local police detectives all conduct many drug investigations and arrests each year. Both government and private entities sponsor drug treatment programs. Citizens groups have formed to create awareness of the drug problem, to become educated on what is happening in their schools and neighborhoods, and to provide assistance to families that are living the nightmare of having a drug addicted spouse or child.

The laws that have been enacted and the tax dollars that are spent on the drug problem have to be implemented under a common plan to be effective.

# GOALS OF THE NORTH DAKOTA DRUG ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE

- Goal 1:** Stop the importation of illegal drugs, especially finished-product methamphetamine, from Mexico and the Southwestern United States.
- Goal 2:** Stop the clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine in North Dakota.
- Goal 3:** Create a broad and deep general public awareness and understanding of the state's illegal drug problem, and the harmful effects of illegal drugs.
- Goal 4:** Identify and target vulnerable groups for increased education, awareness, and enforcement of drug dealers that prey on vulnerable groups.
- Goal 5:** Ensure that all North Dakota citizens have resources to assist them or their families with problems associated with drug abuse.
- Goal 6:** Ensure all possible measures are taken to keep experienced, high quality, police officers in North Dakota to combat the drug problem
- Goal 7:** Ensure all drug control programs are coordinated between entities working to reduce the drug problem in North Dakota.
- Goal 8:** Provide public accountability for drug control programs and laws that have objective results so the public, legislature, and administrators can measure what programs are working to reduce our drug problem, and what programs do not work effectively and should have their resources redirected